

D-731
I. L. Leonard Packinghouse
Cambridge
Private

c. 1900 and later

Incorporated in the large complex of the J. M. Clayton Company at the mouth of Cambridge Creek is a two-story, common bond brick structure formerly part of the old I. L. Leonard packinghouse located at this site during the first decades of the twentieth century. Dating around 1900, the gable roofed brick structure now houses the steam room and cooling room for processing crabs at J. M. Clayton & Company. The common bond brick structure has been enlarged in several directions during the mid twentieth century with one- and two-story concrete block additions, part of which now houses the Quik Pik machinery developed by the company and patented in the early 1980s. The turn-of-the-century portion of the I. L. Leonard packinghouse, along with the c. 1900 portions of the former Tubman, Mills & Company packinghouse directly adjacent, survive as the oldest examples of packinghouse architecture in Dorchester County.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-731

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic I. L. Leonard Packinghouse
other The J. M. Clayton Company, J. M. Clayton & Co.

2. Location

street and number 30 Commerce Street not for publication
city, town Cambridge vicinity
county Dorchester

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name The J. M. Clayton Company
street and number P. O. Box 321 telephone 410-228-1661
city, town Cambridge state Maryland zip code 21613

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dorchester County Clerk of Court liber folio
city, town Cambridge tax map 301 tax parcel tax ID number

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other:

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	1
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> defense	
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	
		<input type="checkbox"/> education	
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	1
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory

7. Description

Inventory No. D-731

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The former I. L. Leonard packinghouse, now part of the J. M. Clayton Company facility, stands separate from the main J. M. Clayton office and picking and storage building at the foot of Commerce Street in Cambridge, Dorchester County, Maryland. The former I. L. Leonard building stands on the edge of the waterfront near the mouth of Cambridge Creek where it enters the Choptank River.

Now housing the steam room, and facility for mechanical crab picking machinery known as the Quik-Pik, the old I. L. Leonard packinghouse is a composite brick and concrete block structure. Closest to the waterfront bulkhead is the oldest section a two-story, seven-course common bond brick structure dating around 1900. One of the few exposed sections of turn of the century brickwork faces the water, and the shoreline along this edge is bulkheaded. The common bond brick wall is pierced by a double door opening on the first floor, whereas two former openings have been closed up with concrete blocks. The low pitched gable roof is covered with corrugated tin. The other sides are largely obscured by later concrete block additions.

The brick structure currently houses the steam room at its south end and a cooling room on the other side of an inner brick partition. The steam room is two stories in height with an exposed series of roof trusses. The adjacent room has a second floor supported by a timber summer beam on which rest a series of sawn joists and a board floor. There are poured concrete floors in both sections.

Extending westward from the turn of the century brick packinghouse structure is a large two-story concrete block addition covered with a low pitched shed roof. Concrete block buttresses define the sides, which are marked by small metal frame windows. The two-story concrete block section is surrounded by single-story concrete block portions of the packinghouse that extend to the southwest from the early brick structure. The single-story sections are pierced by an assortment of metal framed windows, and single flue concrete block stacks pierce the flat roof. The concrete block sections have multiple frame attachments as well, which are covered by corrugated metal sheathing. Standing at the southwest end of the concrete block addition is a shed roofed frame storage building covered with metal sheathing.

8. Significance

Inventory No. D-731

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

Specific dates

Architect/Builder

Construction dates

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Incorporated in the large complex of the J. M. Clayton Company at the mouth of Cambridge Creek is a two-story common bond brick structure formerly part of the old I. L. Leonard packinghouse. Dating around 1900, gable roofed brick structure now houses the steam room and cooling room for the processing of crabs at J. M. Clayton. The common bond brick structure has been enlarged in several directions over the mid twentieth century with two- and one-story concrete block additions, part of which now houses the Quik Pik machinery developed by the company and patented in the early 1980s. The turn-of-the-century portion of the old I. L. Leonard packinghouse, along with the c. 1900 portions of the former Tubman, Mills & Company packinghouse directly adjacent, survive as the oldest examples of packinghouse architecture in Dorchester County.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

Ivy L. Leonard and his brother James Leonard established the Choptank Oyster Packing Company on the Blackwater River in Dorchester County in 1887. A year later, Ivy Leonard sold his interest in the company to his brother and moved to Cambridge where he established his own business on Washington Street.¹ This was sold to Johnson and Radcliffe in 1903.

The I. L. Leonard Packing Company is shown on the Sanborn Insurance map for 1901 with facilities for canning tomatoes and shucking oysters. The plant was located at the foot of Commerce Street at the mouth of Cambridge Creek next to Tubman Mills & Co. oyster packers. The land was leased from Joseph W. Crowell, being part of the property formerly known as "The Point" and more recently as "Crowell's Shipyard."

¹ Moses D. Moore, *Seafood and Cannery Tokens of Dorchester County, Maryland*, Maryland Token and Medal Society, Inc., 1994, p. 19.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-731

Name I. L. Leonard Packinghouse

Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

A company profile was developed for "*A Business Review and Sketch Book*" assembled by Baltimore publisher, the R. H. Woodward Co., in 1901, which related that:

This firm is composed of Messrs. Ivy L. Leonard, Jas. C. Leonard, and James C. Johnson. The manager Ivy L. Leonard, is a native of Dorchester county...They are among the largest manufacturers of all kinds of canned goods on the Eastern Shore, the quality of their goods is the best, and the reputation is well established throughout the country, bring the tip-top prices of the market. Their factory is splendidly equipped and up-to-date in every respect. Employment is given during the packing season to 150 hands and their pay rolls each week aggregate large sums, which is distributed among people of all classes and trades. They have been in business a number of years and their credit and business standing is the very best and unquestioned.²

In May 1909, I. L. Leonard was a delegate to the first annual meeting of the Oyster Growers and Dealers Association of North America, which was held in Baltimore.³

The company relocated to a new site up the creek by September 1911 where a modern building was erected to pack oysters. I. L. Leonard and his son Thomas processed oysters and tomatoes under the brand names "Leonard's" and "Olympia." The packinghouse was described as

It is of brick, three stories, one hundred feet square, equipped with all modern facilities necessary, Making it the largest, most complete and finest oyster packing establishment in the State of Maryland. The shucking room is 69 x 71, with benches for 115 shuckers. Capacity, 1,000 to 1,200 gallons daily. The building is arranged to meet all requirements of a large force of employees, including electric light, air, heat, room, with laboratories, kept in perfect sanitary condition. City water pressure is used throughout the building. Everything is done to meet the demands of the State and local health demands. Inspection invited day or night. A storage capacity of 6,000 to 8,000 bushels is a feature, to anticipate cold weather. A fine office, 37 x 16, on second floor is well equipped with the necessary paraphernalia for correspondence, etc. There is one hundred feet of dock room.⁴

² W.I. Smith, *The Eastern Shore, Maryland: A Business Review and Sketch Book*, Baltimore, Maryland: R. H. Woodward Co., 1901; p. xix.

³ *The Oysterman*, June 1909, p. 1.

⁴ *The Oysterman and Fisherman*, January 1912, p. 41.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. D-731

Dorchester County Land Records, various volumes, Dorchester County Courthouse.

Sanborn Insurance maps, various issues, microfilm at the Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property .5 acre
Acreage of historical setting 1 + acres
Quadrangle name Cambridge, Maryland

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The historic metes and bounds of this property have been incorporated with the adjacent property known as J. M. Clayton and Company.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian and Virginia Jenkins, Business Historian, CBMM		
organization	Private Consultants	date	5/312001
street & number	P. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	Maryland 21871

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

D-731

IMMERCE

12
2079

CH W. WOOLFORD
WOOD & COAL
YARD

Shuck Ho.
J. C. LEANOROS
OYSTER HOUSES.

Shuck Ho.

MAY 1891

CAMBRIDGE

MD.

ICE HO

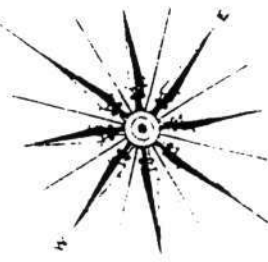
Shucking Ho.

Store Ho.

MACE, WOOLFORD & CO.
OYSTER PACKING

HARBOR.

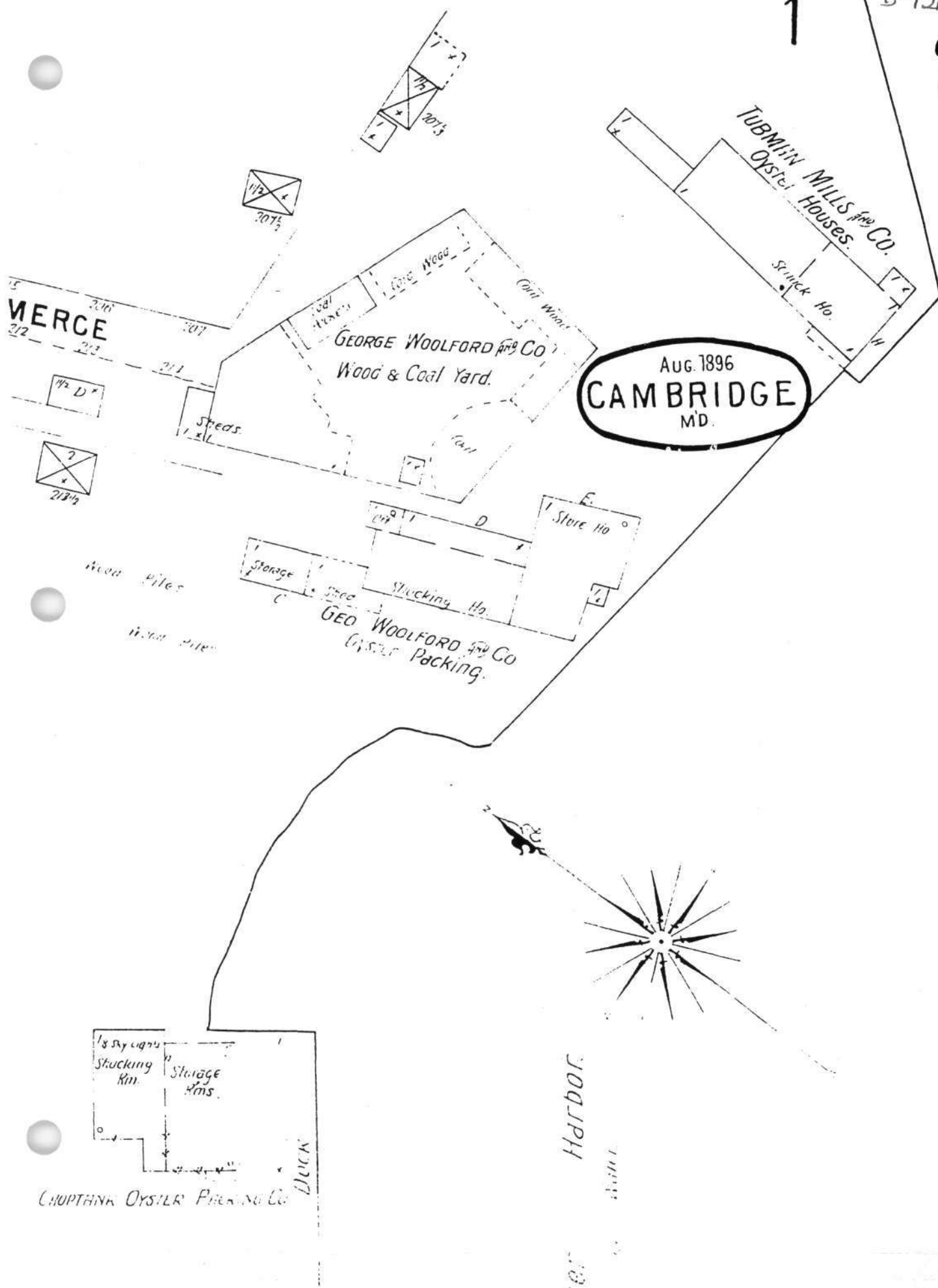
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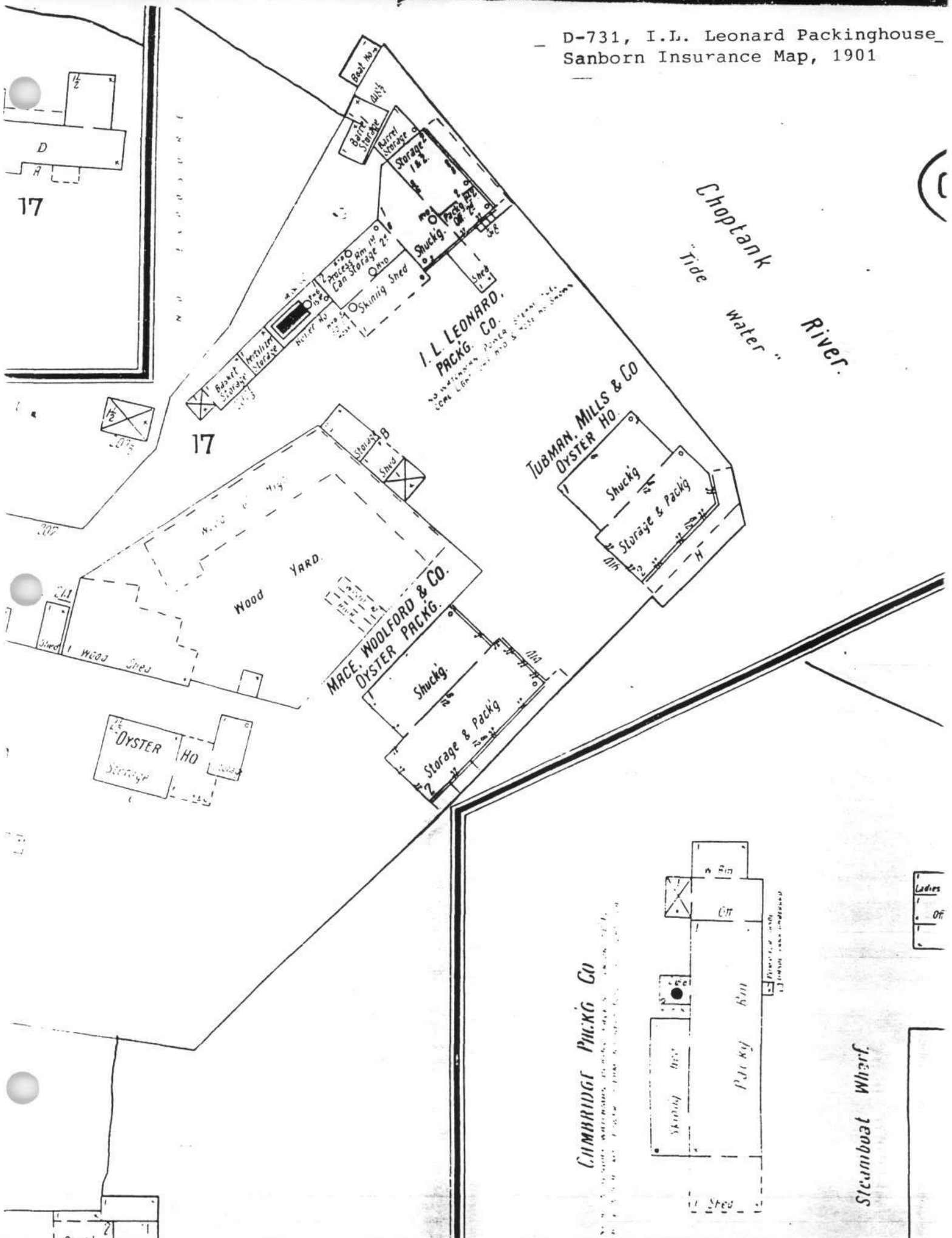
D-731

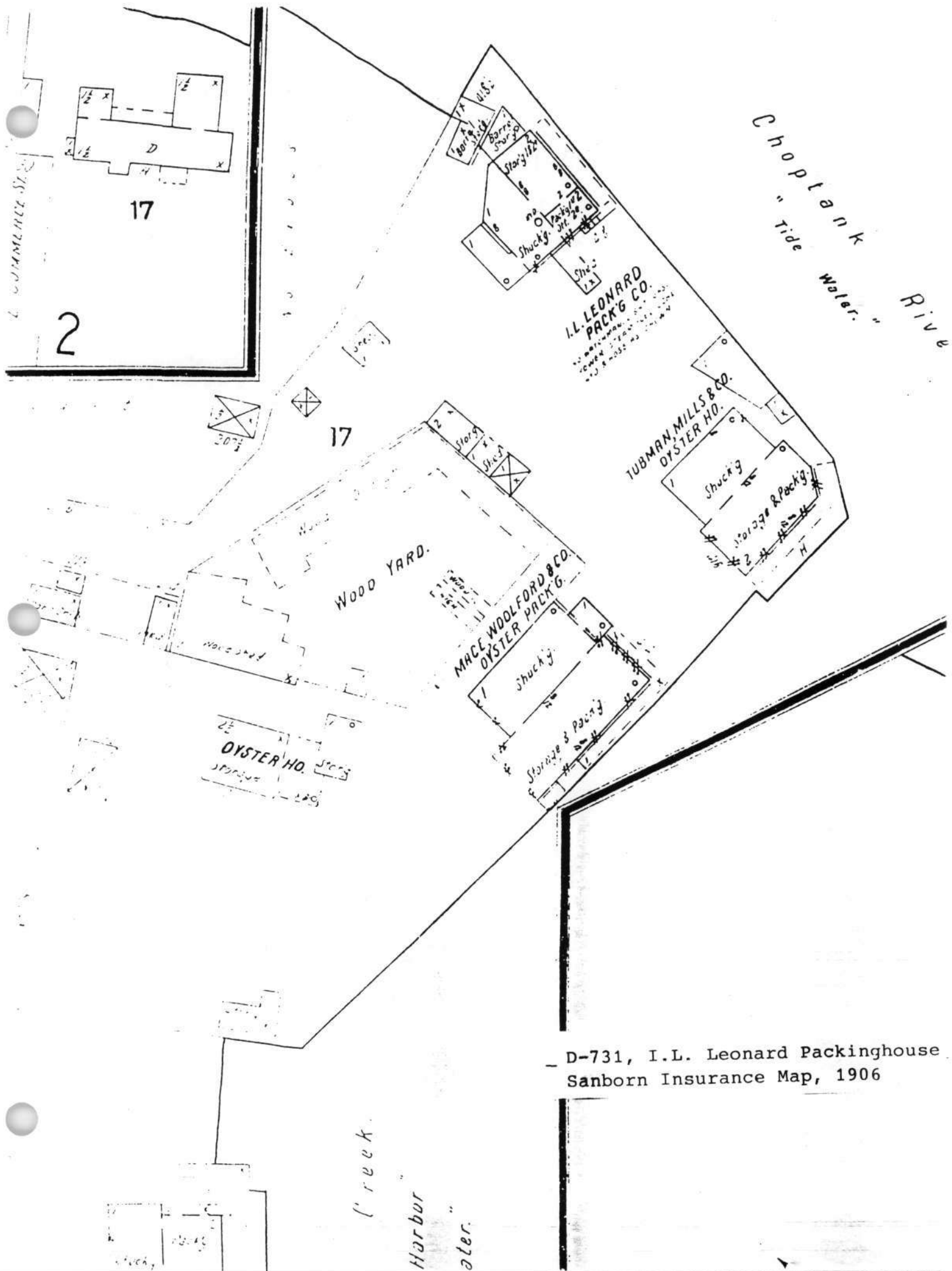
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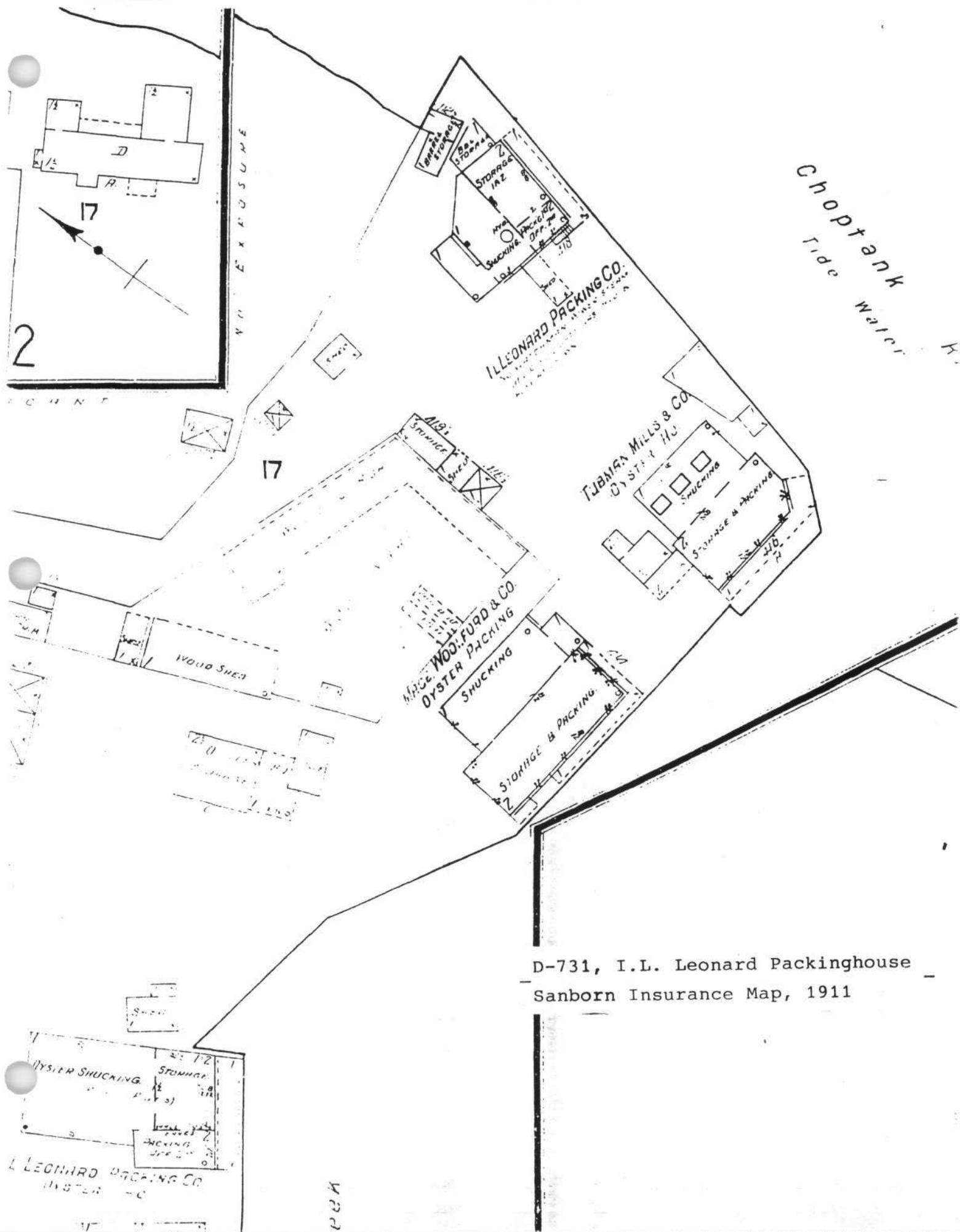


D-731, I.L. Leonard Packinghouse
Sanborn Insurance Map, 1901



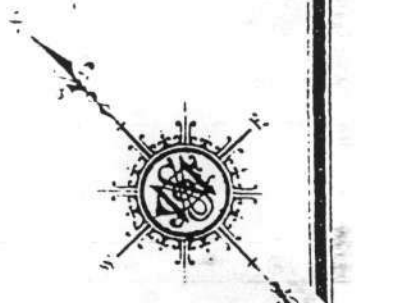


- D-731, I.L. Leonard Packinghouse
Sanborn Insurance Map, 1906

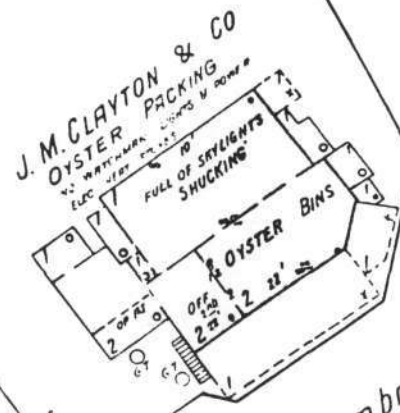
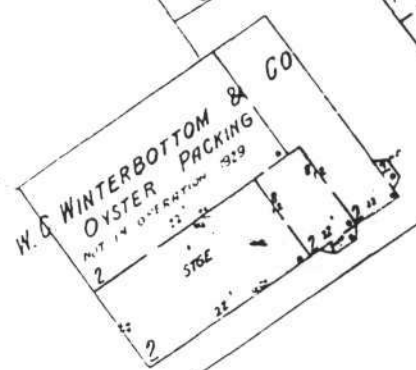
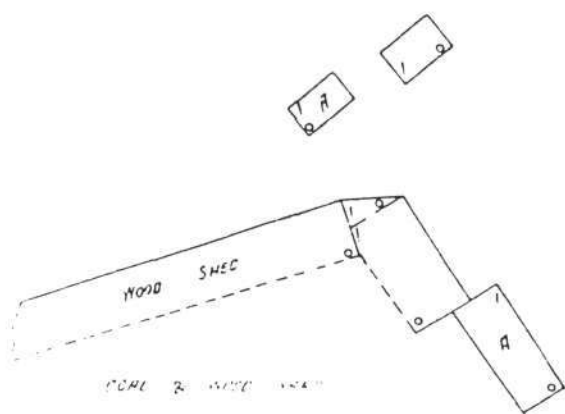
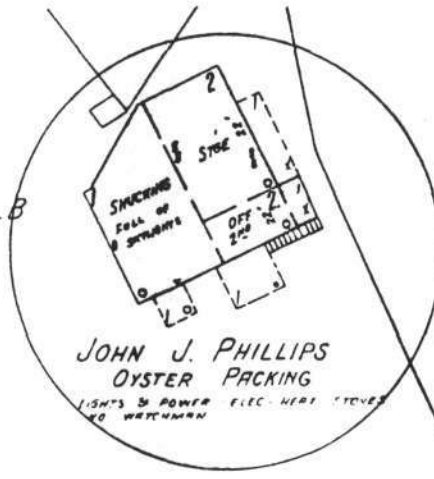


D-731, I.L. Leonard Packinghouse
Sanborn Insurance Map, 1911

A diagram showing a sphere resting on a horizontal surface. A vertical wall is on the left, and a dashed line labeled B extends from the point of contact with the wall.

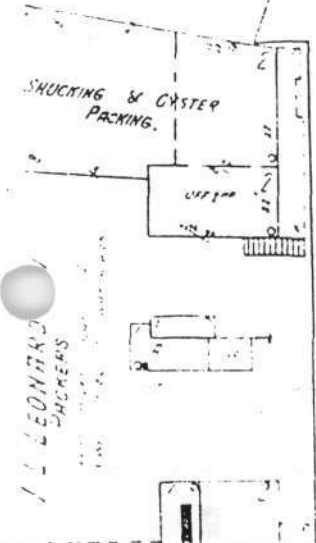


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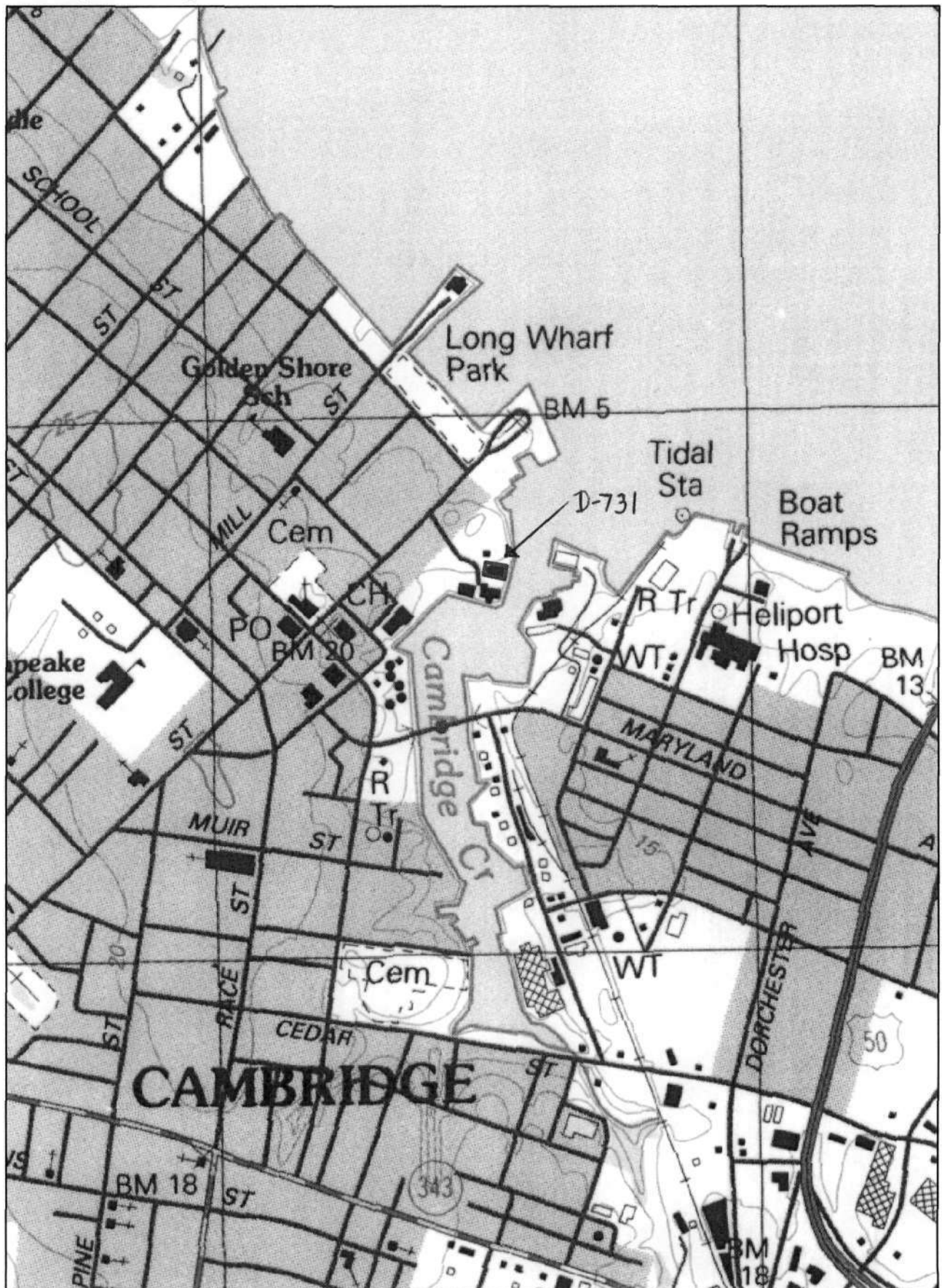
Creek
Cambridge

2
E. COMMERCE



D-731, I.L. Leonard Packinghouse
Sanborn Insurance Map, 1930

D-731
I. L. Leonard Packinghouse
Cambridge
Cambridge Quadrangle





D-731

I. L. LEONARD PARKINGHOUSE
CAMBRIDGE, DORCHESTER CO., MD
SOUTHEAST ELEVATION

5/2001, PAUL TONNET, PHOTOGRAPHER
NEG. / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

1 of 4



D-731

I. L. LEVY AND PARKINGHOUSE

CAMBRIDGE, DORCHESTER CO., MD.

NORTHEAST ELEVATION

5/2001, PAUL TOWNT, PHOTOGRAPHIC

WET. / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

2 OF 4



D-731

I. L. LEONARD PARKINGHOUSE
CAMBRIDGE, DORCHESTER C. MA
STEAM ROOM

5/2001, PAUL TOWART, PHOTO.
W22.1 MD. HIST. TRUST

3 OK 4

D-731

I. L. LEONARD PARKINGHOUSE
CAMBRIDGE, DORCHESTER CO., MA
COOLING ROOM

5/2001, PAUL TONANT, PHOTOGRAPHER
NEB./MA. HISTORICAL TRUST

4 x 4



D-731

I. L. LEONARD PARKINGHOUSE
CAMBRIDGE, DORCHESTER CO., MA.
COOLING ROOM

5/2001, PAUL TOWART, PHOTOGRAPHER
NEB./MA. HISTORICAL TRUST

4 x 4



D-731

I. L. LEONARD PACKING COMPANY

CAMBRIDGE, DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND

DOCUMENTARY PHOTOGRAPH, 1901, AS PRINTED IN
"THE EASTERN SHORE, MARYLAND; A BUSINESS REVIEW & SKETCH BOOK"

CLANDARK COLLECTION